

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2017

**WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL - COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM
8300 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:32 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Commander Holly Perez
3. **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Berger, Coleman, Montemayor, Norton, Sol, Waack, Williams

Commissioners Absent: None

Others present: Commander Holly Perez, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Lieutenant Dave Smith, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Maria Grycan, Community Services Representative, Los Angeles County Fire Department; David Aguilar, Block by Block; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; Bonnie Smith, Public Safety Supervisor

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Williams requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Anthony Beilenson.

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 18 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the February meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the March 13, 2017 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Waack, and approved.

POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the March 13, 2017 Public Safety Commission meeting was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, and the West Hollywood Library.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Norton to approve the February 13, 2017 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Sol, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Gamboa, member of the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board, spoke regarding the Rainbow Key Awards, the institution of a legislative watch, the 2017 Pride protest march, and the Safe WeHo Council.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding a customer service incident with a Sheriff's Deputy.

Dan Morin, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding service animal rules, complimented the Sheriff's Department for monitoring the crosswalk near 24 Hour Fitness, and expressed concern for a crosswalk on Melrose near Urth Caffe' and Restoration Hardware.

Tai Sunnanon, resident of West Hollywood, thanked public safety personnel and Commissioners for their hard work and spoke regarding the positive benefits of safety cameras.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding his attendance at a recent housing meeting hosted by Supervisor Kuehl and the recent Coffee with the Mayor and the Captain. Commissioner Berger thanked Block by Block and Ascencia for their hard work. Commissioner Berger spoke in support of neighborhood "pop-ups" as a good way to communicate with residents. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding possible safety issues with ride share apps. Commissioner Berger announced that there is a Neighborhood Watch meeting on Wednesday, March 15, 2017.

Commissioner Coleman thanked the members of the public for their attendance. Commissioner Coleman requested information regarding the Sheriff's preparations for the 2017 Pride protest march. Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding his recent attendance at the Coffee with the Mayor and the Captain. Commissioner Coleman spoke in support of placing the issue of legal recreational marijuana sales on an upcoming agenda and indicated that Commissioner Norton had also asked for the topic to be on an upcoming agenda. Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding tracking pickpocket thefts and asked for information from the Sheriff's Department regarding any undercover operations to identify suspects.

Commissioner Norton thanked the members of the public for their attendance. Commissioner Norton congratulated Holly Perez on her upcoming promotion to

Commander and welcomed Sergio Aloma as Captain. Commissioner Norton thanked Commissioner Coleman for asking that recreational marijuana be placed on a future agenda and said that the issues she is concerned about are broader, including how the Sheriff's Department will respond to the Trump Administration's various agendas as well as what it means to be a Sanctuary City. Commissioner Norton wished Commissioner Williams a happy birthday.

Commissioner Waack thanked Chief Jim Sullivan for his recent ride along with the Fire Department. Commissioner Waack congratulated Council Members Duran and Heilman on their re-election.

Commissioner Sol requested that the red light camera program be placed on a future agenda.

Commissioner Williams thanked the members of the public for their attendance. Commissioner Williams congratulated Holly Perez on her upcoming promotion to Commander. Commissioner Williams wished Commissioner Norton a happy birthday. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the work completed by the Public Safety Awards sub-committee and the safety camera sub-committee.

Commissioner Montemayor congratulated Holly Perez on her upcoming promotion to Commander.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9A. VISTA/LEXINGTON INTERSECTION SAFETY ENHANCEMENT

Commissioners received an update from Walter Davis, Neighborhood Traffic Management Program Specialist, regarding the Vista/Lexington intersection.

Stephanie Harker, resident of West Hollywood, shared pictures of the current condition of the crosswalk at Vista/Lexington and spoke regarding pedestrian safety and ongoing issues at the location.

Cathy Blaivas, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding pedestrian safety and the ongoing issues at the Vista/Lexington crosswalk as well as the Gardner/Lexington crosswalk.

Michael Wojtkielewicz, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding pedestrian safety and ongoing issues at Sierra Bonita.

Mr. Davis stated that the Gardner/Lexington intersection is slated for improvements.

Commissioner Coleman asked if it is possible to implement short-term measures at locations of concern.

Mr. Davis stated that staff is examining short-term solutions.

Commissioner Coleman spoke in support of establishing a formula for implementing short-term measures.

Mr. Davis clarified that yellow paint is only for crosswalks near grade schools.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the congestion caused by the parents at the school near the crosswalk. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the slanted parking on Hampton and visibility issues. Commissioner Williams spoke in support of illuminated crosswalk warning signs.

Mr. Davis stated that staff is examining all options.

Commissioner Montemayor asked for clarification from staff regarding rules for paint colors at crosswalks, for example to find out how the rainbow crosswalks were approved.

Mr. Davis spoke regarding state guidelines and said that staff is looking at more unique and colorful crosswalks citywide.

Commissioner Montemayor asked if it is possible to have Block-by-Block Ambassadors present near schools during pick up and drop off. Commissioner Montemayor spoke regarding the difficulties of translating an idea in theory to something in practice in real life and spoke in support of listening to the nuances expressed from the neighbors.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the perception that items cannot be accomplished and spoke in support of good communication from staff and implementing temporary measures quickly whenever possible.

Mr. Davis said that he would share the installation date as soon as it is available.

9B. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Ms. Grycan reviewed the Fire Department statistics for February 2017, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities. Ms. Grycan highlighted the 10 fires for the month. Ms. Grycan covered the augmented staffing that was utilized during the winter storms. Ms. Grycan announced that she is taking a new position within the Fire Department with Division III.

Commissioners and staff thanked Ms. Grycan for her dedication to the City of West Hollywood.

Commissioner Coleman asked for clarification on the 77 “unconscious” calls and if it is possible to determine how many are due to alcohol.

Ms. Grycan stated that it is not possible.

Commissioner Norton asked for clarification on the date of the arson fire. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding the discussion at the last meeting with Chief Sullivan regarding reducing the proper resources dispatched to emergency medical calls and said that she recently observed three different calls for emergency medical service where five pieces of equipment were present at each incident, which she thought was an increase in the number usually dispatched. Commissioner Norton asked for clarification on the new decreased deployment policy.

Ms. Grycan gave an overview of typical deployment to emergency medical calls.

9C. REPORT FROM SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT – RESPONSE TO CALLS FOR SERVICE

Lieutenant Smith thanked Commander Perez for her service as Captain.

In response to Commissioner Norton's earlier request for information on the Sheriff's Department's policies regarding sanctuary cities and dealing with immigration issues, Commander Perez spoke briefly regarding immigration and ICE and read a message from Sheriff McDonnell regarding maintaining trust with the communities the Sheriff's Department serves. In addition, Deputies are not instructed or trained to ask persons for their legal status.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the Sheriff's Department's values regarding immigration issues.

Commissioner Coleman thanked Commander Perez for her service as Captain. Commissioner Coleman asked for clarification regarding what happens when a person is arrested for a crime.

Commander Perez said that suspects are not actively asked their immigration status, but that at times an existing warrant from ICE may flag the arrestee.

Staff suggested inviting Hernan Molina to a future meeting to review Sanctuary Cities. Commissioners expressed support for this idea.

Sergeant Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department statistics for February 2017, including crimes, 1,851 calls for service, 48 felony arrests, and 118 misdemeanor arrests. Sergeant Klaus reviewed the pickpocket incidents. Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 8 DUI arrests and 3 DUI traffic collisions in the month of February. Sergeant Klaus stated that there were 2 vehicle vs. pedestrian accidents and 1 vehicle vs. bicyclist accident in the month of February.

Lieutenant Smith stated that vehicle burglaries continue to be an issue and that crime on the eastside is lower and that crime suppression patrols are effective.

Commissioner Norton asked for clarification on the vehicle burglary statistics.

Lieutenant Smith gave clarification on the locations of the vehicle burglaries.

Commissioner Berger said that he sees marked improvement on the east end. Commissioner Berger spoke in support of a medical marijuana location at Formosa and Santa Monica Boulevard who is doing a great job with security around the location. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding a resident at Lexington at Formosa who sees people running the stop sign on a regular basis. Commissioner Berger spoke in support of sending traffic officers during key times of frequent violations.

Commissioner Coleman spoke regarding the ongoing issue with vehicle burglaries and spoke in support of neighborhood based enforcement. Commissioner Coleman asked staff to schedule the contract sub-committee.

Lieutenant Smith gave a brief update on the plans for the 2017 Pride protest march.

Commissioner Montemayor spoke in support of both the Sheriff's Department and LAPD and their preparations for the march.

Commissioner Norton asked if the on-site medical care centers would be utilized.

Staff spoke regarding plans for medical care centers at Pride.

Lieutenant Smith reminded all that the LA Marathon comes through West Hollywood on Sunday, March 19, 2017.

Commissioner Coleman asked for the discussion of the response to calls for service to be moved to the next meeting.

9D. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADORS – MONTHLY REPORT

David Aguilar, Block by Block, gave an update on monthly activities in February 2017, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, and homeless issues.

Commissioner Williams asked Mr. Aguilar if he received her message about a homeless individual blocking the door of a beauty salon.

Mr. Aguilar said that he would follow-up with the business. Mr. Aguilar said that the Ambassadors are able to do periodic checks of the crosswalks near the pre-school.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding an apartment building at Lexington and Formosa with possible trespassing and nuisance issues.

Mr. Aguilar stated that his team is working with code compliance and the Sheriff's Department to address the various issues at the apartment building.

9E. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – CAMERA RFP, PEDESTRIAN SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE, PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

Staff thanked the Commissioners who served on the camera vendor interview panel and said that references are now being checked for the finalists.

Commissioner Coleman asked how vendors are being rated.

Staff stated that project management, reputation, experience with municipalities, technical expertise, and design experience are all important.

Commissioner Waack stated that the Transportation Commission had other items to address first but will be addressing the issue of forming a sub-committee with the Public Safety Commission.

Commissioner Coleman stated that the Transportation Commission was advised by staff to wait.

Commissioners asked when the bicycle/pedestrian plan would be coming to the Public Safety Commission for input, and staff stated that it is scheduled for the April meeting.

Commissioner Coleman gave an overview of the Public Safety Awards sub-committee's recommendations.

Commissioner Williams said that Commander Perez would check to see if the Sheriff is available to speak.

Staff said that they would be moving forward on items that are time sensitive but that the sub-committee would continue to be informed.

9F. PUBLIC SAFETY EDUCATION

Staff said that the Communications Department will be working with the Public Safety Department to refresh the public education campaign. In addition, the Communications Director will be reaching out to the Chair and the Vice-Chair to view the safety PSA and get their input.

Commissioner Sol spoke in support of utilizing refrigerator magnets that detail a person's key medical statistics for first responders.

Staff spoke regarding the various tools the Department uses, including magnets and the file of life and said that the items will be available at the Senior Health Fair.

Commissioner Berger asked staff to give an update on the AED program.

Staff stated that all 12 AEDs are installed and that the Fire Film Unit is working on the PSA. In addition, the information of the locations of the AEDs has been registered with the Los Angeles County Fire Department and will eventually show up in the PulsePoint app.

10. ITEMS FROM STAFF

10A. NEWS FROM STAFF – MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS/JUNE DATE

Staff discussed the upcoming sensitivity training for the Sheriff's Station.

Staff discussed the scheduling issue with the June meeting and CSW and said that Monday, June 26th is an option. Commissioners said that the June 26th date is ok.

Commissioner Williams noted that April 10th is a Jewish Holiday. Commissioners settled on Monday, April 24th as an alternate day.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

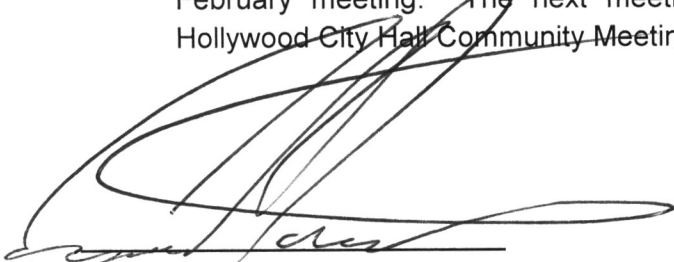
12. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None.

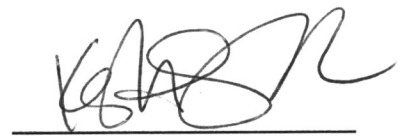
13. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 8:46 PM in the memory of Anthony Beilenson and the 18 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the February meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2017 at the West Hollywood City Hall Community Meeting Room.

26/1/17



Public Safety Commission Chair



Staff Liaison

A copy of the audio recording of this meeting can be obtained from the City Clerk's office upon request.

(Disclaimer: Staff records the meetings for the sole purpose of composing the official meeting minutes; therefore the recordings are not of commercial quality.)